

MINUTES

INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

June 3, 2009

Department of Education
James Whitcomb Riley Conference Room
151 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

The meeting of the Indiana State Board of Education convened at 9:04 a.m. Board members Dr. Tony Bennett, Neil Pickett, Sarah O'Brien, Steve Gabet, David Shane, Vicki Snyder, and James Edwards were present. Board members Jo Blacketer, Mike Pettibone, Daniel Elsener, and Dr. Gwendolyn Griffith-Adell were not present.

I. Call to Order

Dr. Bennett led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Approval of the Minutes

Ms. Blacketer moved for approval of the minutes. Mr. Gabet seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Statement of the Chair

Dr. Bennett discussed the ISTEP review and thanked Wes Bruce and his staff, teachers who participated in the review process, and local superintendents who recommended teachers. Dr. Bennett said the Department of Education is on the right track toward achieving a rigorous assessment tool that measures Indiana students' achievement.

Dr. Bennett said information on the Governor's budget was released June 2. A large majority of states are currently cutting education spending; however, Indiana is not and Indiana is increasing per pupil expenditures. This is a testimony to how Governor Daniels feels about education in Indiana. Regarding the stimulus funds, Dr. Bennett said Indiana is using this money to get ahead,

while many other states are not in the same fiscal shape that we are in and need the money to keep up.

Dr. Bennett discussed the graduation performance award program. The graduation rate performance program will reward \$20,000 to staff members of 12 Indiana public high schools with the greatest increase in 2009-2010 graduation rate (without waivers and as measured by state audited results) over 2008-2009. Total enrollment must be at least 300. An award of \$10,000 for less than 300 students will be given.

Dr. Bennett said he recently formed a Study Council that had its first meeting in May. Incredible input was received.

Dr. Bennett invited everyone to go over to the State House to see Indiana's scoreboard monitor showing our goals and progress and to see a painting of Teddy Roosevelt that was done by a student at the Signature School in Evansville.

IV. Spotlight on Learning

Jeffery P. Zaring, State Board of Education Administrator, announced dual "Spotlight on Learning" recognition-for Success in Advanced Placement and Mock Trial National Champions.

Dr. Bennett recognized the following schools that have met or are exceeding the statewide goal to increase participation of students taking AP classes and passing AP exams:

- Signature School Inc.
- Indiana Academy for Science, Math and the Humanities.
- West Lafayette Junior/Senior High School.
- Zionsville Community High School.
- Carmel High School.
- Hamilton Southeastern High School.
- North Central High School.
- Munster High School.
- Fishers High School.

Dr. Bennett also recognized the John Adams High School Mock Trial Championship student team members:

- Josh Coutney.

- Jenn Deeter.
- Adam Kern.
- Chris Silvestri.
- Eilis Smyth.
- Gabe young.
- David Kern.
- Kieran Neal.
- Allie Soisson.
- Judith Overmyer (teacher sponsor).

V. Board Member Comments

VI. Adjudications and Hearings

- A. Becky Bowman, General Counsel, presented oral argument in Cause Number 0903003, In Re the Matter of N. B., Right to Attend School Pursuant to IC 20-26-11-15.

Andrew Manna, Bose, McKinney and Evans, spoke on behalf of Franklin Community School Corporation, and John Mercer, Esq., spoke on behalf of N. B.

Mr. Pickett made a motion to uphold the decision of the hearing officer. Mr. Edwards seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Public Comments

VIII. Discussion

Board members were given an update on the stimulus plan from Lance Rhodes, Chief Financial Officer. Mr. Rhodes said stimulus money is flowing through the DOE to the school districts, and we are still anticipating and waiting additional federal guidance.

Dr. Bennett thanked Mr. Rhodes and his team for the phenomenal work they have done, dealing with this matter.

Mr. Zaring discussed the strategic plan and said the Board's deregulation rules have been drafted and transmitted to the Budget Agency. After special session ends and they have time to devote to this issue, we should be able to move to the public input phase. Mr. Zaring also said work continues on measures and strategies.

David Kogan, Strategic Advisor for School Turnaround, discussed the draft protocol that DOE technical assistant teams will use for schools that have been in the lowest category of P.L. 221 for four consecutive placements. Mr. Kogan said the teams that will work with the school corporations will include representatives of the community and educators from high performing schools.

Mr. Zaring said the department is trying to find an adequate benchmark to use for the initial assessment. It is the responsibility of the state to support the local efforts, provide flexibility, and to help schools address their needs. Meetings with community leadership will also be an important piece of this process. Their input and support will be needed.

Mr. Kogan said a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will be developed to establish a mutual understanding and mutual agreement about the extent and nature of the technical assistance.

Mr. Kogan said the technical assistance teams will start in September.

Jeffery P. Zaring, State Board of Education Administrator, gave an update on legislative issues. Board members received an updated list of bills that have been adopted by the General Assembly and signed by the Governor.

Mr. Zaring said Board members were sent a link that has the Governor's budget recommendations for special session, which is scheduled to start on June 11.

Pat Mapes, Director, Office of Educator Licensing and Development, discussed legislation that deals with background checks and license revocation and immunity, PL 121-2009. Criminal background checks will now be the responsibility of school corporations and will be expanded to include the FBI and national sex offender registry. The Office of Educator Licensing and Development has been working with the Indiana State Police to utilize their L-1 Identity Solutions Program. Mr. Mapes said this is available at 63 locations throughout the state. Potential school employees can be fingerprinted, and schools receive electronic information about whether or not that candidate is acceptable and qualified or nonqualified to be employed in a school district. Mr. Mapes said schools corporations will soon receive information to register for this program at no cost.

Mr. Mapes discussed license revocation and said the DOE is establishing a data base that will allow school officials to report offenses through a secure online form. Once they have been verified, these individuals' names will be made public so that any person may search the data base for information concerning

employees or former employees. This will be password protected for school superintendents to enter information.

New legislation also included school discipline components. School Corporation certified personnel will have qualified immunity with respect to a disciplinary action taken to promote student conduct if the action taken is in good faith and is reasonable. The Attorney General and Superintendent of Public Instruction annually will notify school personnel of their immunity.

Mr. Mapes also said the turnaround time for license applications, from the time it reaches the DOE to the time the license is issued, has improved considerably. The goal used to be six weeks, but now the process has been streamlined and that goal is now two weeks turnaround time.

Dr. Peggy Wilde, Career and Technical Education Specialist, discussed Personal Financial Responsibility legislation. Public Law 154-2009, effective July 2, 2009, requires Indiana accredited schools to include instruction concerning personal finance responsibility in the curriculum for all students in grades 6-12. To meet the requirements of the legislation, schools may (1) integrate instruction within the curriculum, or (2) conduct a seminar designed to foster overall personal financial responsibility.

Dr. Wilde discussed the following steps taken by DOE:

- A financial literacy task force was formed in 2007.
- Recommendations were made and professional development training has been provided the past two years.
- A collection of financial literacy resources and training materials has been compiled for schools and teachers.

Mr. Zaring said Board members were sent an electronic copy of an update on assessment and accountability. The Department will proceed with developing a new course description and other necessary guidelines for Board review.

IX. Consent Agenda Items

- A. Mr. Zaring presented a request for adoption of final orders in administrative adjudications where no objections have been filed to the recommended order of the hearing officer. [Agenda item VI, A]

- B. Mr. Zaring presented a request for acceptance of the report on school corporation accreditation status pursuant to IC 20-31-404. [Agenda item X, A]

Mr. Shane moved for approval of the consent agenda items. Mr. Gabet seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

X. Action

XI. Board Operations

Dr. Bennett said there would not be a July Board meeting. [Note: The previously scheduled August meeting subsequently was moved to July 29.]

Mr. Gabet moved for adjournment. Mr. Edwards seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

